



August 2, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

This is the fifth in my series of Kitchen Cabinet updates helping you understand why government costs so much. Like pulling a loose thread on a sweater, I feel like these Kitchen Cabinet updates have unraveled a web of data which exposes where your taxpayer dollars are really going and why the state is in such a dire financial crisis.

Did a friend forward this e-mail to you? [Click here](#) to sign up for these Kitchen Cabinet e-mail updates.

I've been sending out these updates for over three years now, and the upcoming 2011 session will no doubt be a very important one for our state. [Sign up](#) to receive these updates and keep on top of what's going on in Olympia.

Office of the Superintendant of Public Instruction



Over the last several weeks in these Kitchen Cabinet updates, we've taken a hard look at some areas where the state is perhaps overspending. [We've looked at the University of Washington](#), where one professor without tenure makes over **\$715,000 a year in pay and benefits** and dozens more make over a quarter of a million dollars. [We've looked at the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts](#), where more than 80% of their nearly 300 employees make over \$99,000 annually in pay and benefits. [We've looked into the governor's office](#), where **31% of the governor's staff makes more than \$99k a year** – and that doesn't include the 10 or so employees at the Office of Financial Management who work directly for the governor.

This week, it's the [Office of the Superintendant of Public Instruction](#) that gets caught in the crosshairs. **In 2009 there were 407 people working for OSPI and more than half of them received over \$99,000 a year in pay and benefits.** 222 people, or 54% of everyone at OSPI, fall

into that category. Randy Dorn, the Superintendant himself, makes well over \$99,000 annually, but interestingly enough he's not the top earner in the department. Two other chiefs of staff that year made more than Dorn, topping out at over \$200,000 in pay and benefits.

Another surprising fact is that **71 administrative assistants at OSPI fall within the \$99k+ in pay and benefits umbrella**. That's 71 administrative assistants out of the 136 in the entire department. That means that one full third of the entire Office of the Superintendant of Public Instruction is made up of administrative assistants. **What could they possibly need that many assistants for?**

As I've said before, most of the rank and file employees around the state make much less than this, but there are some major exceptions which need to be addressed. **You can find all the information about state employee salaries on the website for the Office of Financial Management**.

Next week's revelations

If you want to review the prior Kitchen Cabinet updates we've done, you can find them on my website at www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell. Or, if there is a state agency or department which you'd like me to take a look at in future Kitchen Cabinets, send an e-mail to Carrell.Mike@leg.wa.gov. Next week, I'll be taking a look at the **Washington State Investment Board**. Perhaps they're spending too much time investing in their own retirement plans!

55 Solutions



While I've been detailing many of the different ways state government spends your money, I think it's important to also point out that I have been an advocate of numerous ways state government could save money as well. **You can find a [list of 55 of those solutions](#) on my website**, and I'm sure there will be even more ideas proposed as the 2011 legislative session draws near.

State Auditor's suggestions

A few weeks ago, State Auditor Brian Sonntag wrote an [editorial in the Seattle Times](#) about ways to “shrink the footprint” of state government. Some of his ideas included setting a new “normal” for state government in which:

- Government sets priorities based on citizen expectations;
- Government pays only for the priority programs and services it can afford, and reduces or eliminates what it can't;
- The state creates a centralized financial-management system to provide needed and effective oversight and accountability over all state expenditures and financial activities;
- The state ends the "bow wave" effect of legislation when new programs are created without a means to pay for them;
- The state establish comprehensive strategic planning to guide all programs and functions using a consistent long-term vision to meet the core mission of the state; and
- The state makes a strong commitment to open, transparent government and ensures citizens are better-informed and listened to.

Part of his editorial suggested that the latest fiscal emergency should serve as a clarion call for state leaders to step up and transform state government, saying ***“We can no longer balance the state budget by nibbling at the edges, reducing some services and imposing some additional taxes.”***

Indeed, as of today, the governor is now facing two difficult choices. She can either order immediate across-the-board cuts to all state departments, agencies and programs or she can call a special session of the Legislature to deal with the crisis. If she goes the across-the-board route, she must make cuts that are equal – not necessarily equitable. Life-saving functions of government would suffer the same cuts, percentage-wise, as less essential functions. **For example, services for the developmentally disabled would be cut at the same rate as funding for tourism.**



The idea of returning to Olympia won't thrill lawmakers either, but a special session is the best move for Washington citizens. In a special session, lawmakers can ensure a reserve is maintained, something state law doesn't allow the governor to do. **Only the Legislature can enact policy-based reforms that would not only save money over the remainder of this fiscal year but also reduce the cost of government for the following budget cycle.** As a legislator, it is our duty to make needed reductions in a compassionate way that prioritizes the values of the people of Washington. Legislators, *not the governor*, decide how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Anderson Island Update



I attended a hearing today at the Thurston County Courthouse in which several people testified regarding the permanent power cable to be installed on Anderson Island soon. One of the people testifying was the manager of Tanner Electric Co-op, the utility which provides power to island residents. At the hearing, there was some concern that drilling through the cliffs along the mainland to lay the cable could disrupt the aquifer and potentially contaminate the groundwater, but an independent geologist hired to review the project didn't see any cause for alarm.

I was the only public official who came to today's hearing to testify. I testified in favor of expediting the laying of the cable. I'm anxious to see the island's residents back on a permanent source of power. I expect there will be a decision based on today's hearing very soon, as many people and agencies are eager to begin work on the project. The power cable is currently sitting on a dock somewhere in China, waiting to be loaded onto a ship to make the 14-day journey to the island.

National Night Out

The **27th Annual National Night Out** is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and will take place all across the country tomorrow night. Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50

states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 36 million people participated in National Night Out 2009.

The event is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

I'll be attending several of the events around our area, and if you're interested in finding out more about tomorrow's events near you, please contact my office at **360-786-7654** for more information.

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at
www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428**.



- Legislative E-mail address: carrell.mike@leg.wa.gov
- Home E-mail address: mcarrell@hotmail.com

Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

28th District State Senator